

**Letter from State Capital.**  
**[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]**

**ANNAPOIS, Dec. 23d, 1859.**

**The Oyster War—Captured Vessels—Disturbance in Annapolis—Bonding of the Comptroller—The Delegate Hall and Library—The New Painting of Washington Resigning his Commission—The Characters Represented—The Naval Academy.**

The "ancient city" has been thrown into unusual excitement for the past few days consequent upon the capture of oyster vessels, charged with a violation of the laws against the use of dredges. Sheriff Ireland having chartered the steamboat *Lioness*, Capt. League, of Baltimore, on Tuesday and Wednesday last, succeeded in capturing ten schooners. An examination took place before Justice Glover, James Revell, Esq., State's attorney, appearing for the State, and Messrs. Spencer and Miller for the defendants, which resulted in the condemnation of the following vessels:

Schr. *Swan*, Philadelphia, Capt. Chas. Aspey; schr. *Providence*, Philadelphia, Capt. Jno. Kelley; schr. *Pathfinder*, Philadelphia, Capt. James Cremor; schr. *Independent Eagle*, Baltimore, Capt. Arthur Martin; schr. *Post Boy*, Baltimore, Capt. Edward Brown; schr. *Monterey*, Philadelphia, Capt. Jos. Henry; schr. *Albion*, Philadelphia, Capt. N. Farbee; schr. *Castner*, Philadelphia, Capt. Wm. T. Hall; sloop *Julia K. Hinkle*, Philadelphia, Capt. John Phillips. The schooner *Flr. Capt. Cassidy*, was discharged for want of evidence.

The condemned boats will be advertised for sale at ten days' notice, and the proceeds distributed among the captors—one-fourth to the informer, one-fourth to the sheriff, and the other half to the crew.

Through some misunderstanding, as the sheriff says, the steamboat came down from Baltimore with Mr. Joseph Edwards, and nineteen persons selected by him, to aid the sheriff of this county in his undertaking. Fifteen of them were returned to Baltimore the same day by railroad, after three boats had been captured, Edwards and four of his companions remaining. A disturbance took place between Edwards and a captain of one of the captured schooners, during which shots were fired, and considerable excitement was created in the city in consequence. On Thursday evening several storekeepers had the garments in front of their shops cut with knives. Last night John, a servant of Col. Waltons, of the City Hotel, was knocked down and badly beaten; his shawl was also stolen. The Baltimore parties have now all left this city.

The Comptroller, Wm. H. Purnell, Esq., has just filed his bond with the Governor, for \$50,000, which was approved. The following parties qualified as security in \$25,000 each: John Selby Purnell, Z. P. Henry and Littleton P. Franklin, Esqs., all of Worcester county.

A new carpet has been laid down on the floor of the House of Delegates, and the hall is nearly ready for the reception of members. The State library is now in admirable condition. Col. Boyle has the alcoves on the lower floor appropriated to law works exclusively. The second floor contains miscellaneous works and federal reports. The third floor contains the duplicate State reports, &c. The members of the bar express themselves much pleased with the new arrangement.

The new painting of Washington Resigning his Commission in the Senate chamber, (which cost \$6,000,) has elicited a diversity of sentiment as to its merits, but comments thereon are generally disparaging. The picture exhibits the following figures, which are mentioned in the order of their prominence:—Cols. Benjamin Walker and David Humphreys, aids; Charles Thompson, secretary of Penn; an old soldier in continental uniform; Thomas Mifflin, president of Congress; Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, and two daughters; afterwards Mrs. Harper and Mrs. Caton; James Madison, James Munroe, Col. John Eager Howard, of Baltimore; Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, Eldridge Gerry, of Mass; Otho Holland Williams, of Md; Gov. Thomas Stone, of Md.; Gov. William Paca, of Md; Judge Sam'l Chase, of Md.; Thomas McKean, Dr. Olyphant, Mrs. Washington and her niece, Miss Custis; Col. Samuel Smith, of Md; Gen. Arthur St. Clair; Joshua Barney, of Baltimore; R. M. Spait of N. C.; Edward Lloyd, of Md; Benjamin Hawkins, of N. C.; Gen. Smallwood, of Md; Wm. Ellory, of R. I. and A. Foster, of N. H.

At the Naval School the first-class sloop-of-war *Plymouth*, used as a practice ship, is fast anchored in the middle of the Severn river, and gas and steam are conveyed from the shore to the vessel in pipes resting upon piers. The first-class of pupils, upon entering the academy, pass their first year's studies on board the vessel, with the exception of a weekly visit to the shore, unless refused for misconduct.

The five new buildings and dwellings erected the past summer for the institution, by Mr. Daniel M. Spragle, builder, of this city, have all been completed and handed over to the government authorities.